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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Production and Development at VEB Walzwerk Ueber Buntmetalle, Kupfer-und Messingwerke,

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. VEB Walzwerk Bettstedt[1] (formerly SAG Marten) has a total crew of about 25X1 5,000. It produces mainly plate iron varying from about 16 to 40 millimeters thick. This product is delivered to the Russians according to the specifications of the Russian Sea Register. Other items produced by 25X1 the plant are sheet copper and copper tubes, sheet brass and brass tubes, rolled iron wire, rolled copper wire and pressed copper wire.

2. Research and development is centered in the Main Laboratory under the 25X1 direction of Dr. Karl Kaiser, national prize winner. The Main Laboratory which has a crew of about 40, is divided into the following departments:

a. Chemistry, headed by Felix Jablonski, a former Laborant, now a "Verdienter Erfinder", who is assisted by about 15 laboratory technicians; 25X1

b. Spectography, headed by Wiebricht (fnu), assisted by about six laboratory technicians;

25X1

c. Material Testing, headed by Wertmann (fnu), assisted by about 12 material testers.

3. The following development and production work was carried out by the personnel of the Main Laboratory from the summer of 1952 to mid-April 1954: 25X1

a. Development and production of standard electrodes (Eichelektroden) for use in the Spectrographic Department. The electrodes are made of nickel with various additions, such as copper, manganese, iron, silicon, etc.

b. Development and production of thermo-elements from iron and constantan and from nickel and nickel-chromium. These elements were formerly imported [redacted] The Main Laboratory started its production in October 1953. The thermo-elements are delivered mainly to VEB Leunawerke Walter Ulbricht, VEB Bunawerke in Schkopau and VEB Kombinat Otto Grotewohl in Boehlen.

c. Development of fusing wire (Einschmelzdraehte) of 0.28 millimeter from an alloy consisting of equal parts of nickel and iron. The development was completed in November 1953; production was then started.

25X1

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The wire goes to the enterprises of the East German glass industry.

25X1 d. Development of a procedure for the electrolytic surface treatment of nickel tubes. The nickel tubes, which are about 1.5 meters long with an outer and inner diameter of 12 and 10 millimeters, go to the enterprises of the East German high-vacuum tube industry after being electrolytically polished in the Main Laboratory.

25X1 e. From August to December 1953, the Main Laboratory produced about 13,000 metric tons of sheet aluminum, mostly two meters long, one meter wide and one millimeter thick. This product was shipped to Russia. At first, the aluminum sheets were wrapped in thin oil paper and packed into wooden boxes about 2 by 1 by 0.15 meters large. The Russians specified that the aluminum was to be not less than 99.5 percent pure. The remaining 25X1 impurities were mainly copper, silicon and magnesium. Blister occurrence had to satisfy a GOST norm according to which not more than three blisters in every 100 square centimeters of the material were allowed. The aluminum came from [redacted] Russia in the shape of trapezoid billets . It was melted in the gas furnaces of the plant, poured into blocks and then rolled to sheets.

25X1 f. Around mid-March 1954, the Main Laboratory resumed the production of small quantities of nickel wire of about 0.05 millimeters thick. This wire had been produced before, but production of it was discontinued in the latter part of 1952. Production of the nickel wire is to be considerably increased in the near future.

4. Since December 1953, a vacuum melting installation has been in operation in the Main Laboratory. [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Among its other uses, the installation serves in the vacuum melting of nickel for the production of finest nickel wire. In previous periods the nickel was melted under normal pressure. As a result, it contained many air and gas impurities which Hettstedt hopes to avoid by vacuum melting. Up to mid-April 1954, however, the installation had not functioned at all well, probably mainly because the operating personnel lacked experience in this field.

[redacted] Comment: Walzwerk fuer Buntemetalle, Kupfer- und Messingwerke, Hettstedt.

[redacted]